

## ***For Your Information***

FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF

March 2, 2022

### **Dates to Remember**

March 14, 2022 – P & Z Board Meeting

March 15, 2022 – Special Magistrate Hearing

March 17, 2022 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

March 21, 2022 – City Commission Meeting

March 28, 2022 – City Commission Workshop

### **Office of the City Manager:**

Citizens, Business Owners & Other Interested Parties:

The Clewiston tourism season has seen much success in recent weeks and projections for continued activities scheduled in the weeks ahead look equally promising. A number of very successful fishing tournaments have been held with record participation and attendance reported. Likewise, several other public activities have been well-attended such as the county fair, museum speaker series events, community fundraising events including golf tournaments and dinners, bicycling races, pedestrian walks and “fun run” type activities. The schedule for the next month plus is packed with much more of the same and features the return of the always popular Sugar Festival after a two year hiatus thanks to the pandemic.

Amazingly, this will be my first Sugar Festival as city manager since 2019 and I am very excited to attend. The festival committee has done an outstanding job planning this year’s event with some new additions I encourage you to check out. The City is especially looking forward to showing off the newly renovated youth center facility to kick off the festival activities. Renovations have been challenging due to supply chain delays, but I am confident the facility will be ready and make a hit with visitors and program participants. The City owes a big THANK YOU to all its partners, particularly U.S. Sugar, for making the festival and the youth center facility upgrade a reality for 2022. Many thanks to all the festival sponsors as well who have made this signature festival event happen over the years.

I especially encourage locals to get involved in all the upcoming activities that interest you. Many of the events support local charities and assist with meeting various community needs throughout the year. I hope you will also agree that after the challenges of the last couple of years, we could all benefit from having some fun! As I have stated previously, this is a wonderful community full of talented and caring individuals. To all who volunteer or otherwise donate in so many ways, just know that your contributions and attributes are appreciated. America’s sweetest town is truly blessed.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the City of Clewiston.

Randy Martin

### **Staff Reports**

#### **Community Development Director Travis Reese reports:**

- Cane Nutrition opened its doors this week at 300 S. WC Owen Avenue. They will be offering iced coffee and nutritional supplement drinks.

#### **Golf Course Director Robbie Rush reports:**

- Get all information of what's going on at Clewiston Golf Course Facebook.
- Get on our E-mail list by going to the City of Clewiston Website. Go to the golf course division and at the bottom of the page you can sign-up on Constant Contact and get all Clewiston Golf Course information.
- Golf Shop Hours are 7:15am-5:00pm. The first tee time is 7:30am. Carts are due in at 5:45pm daily. The golf course is open 7 days a week. Tee Times are required. Contact golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Clewiston Golf Course has a driving range. The driving range has lights which means you can hit golf balls after (Night Time) hours. Tokens for the range ball machine can be purchased in the golf shop or the Clewiston Police Department after hours.
- Golf lessons and Club Repairs are available at the club from PGA Professional Robbie Rush. Contact golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Monday Special after 12pm 18 holes with cart \$30.00 plus tax per person.
- Walking is permitted all day.
- Congratulations!! Miller Couse 2022 Men's Senior Club Champion. Score 80.
- March 6, 2022 - Couples Championship
- March 8, 2022 - Ladies Clinic
- March 12, 2022 - LaBelle VFW Scramble
- March 15, 2022 - Ladies Clinic
- March 15, 2022 - CLGA St. Patrick's Day Stableford and Skins Ladies Tournament
- March 26, 2022 - Presbyterian Nicaragua Medical Mission Tournament

**For more information call the golf shop 863-983-1448**

#### **Library Director Natasha Hayes reports:**

- **Operating Hours-**
  - Monday through Friday: 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
  - Saturday & Sunday: CLOSED
- The library continues to follow all CDC guidelines such as social distancing and recommending face masks to be worn while in the library, but are not required. If you have any questions, please call the library at 863-983-1493. Thank you for your understanding and patience during this time.
- Library staff provided ready reference assistance, circulation activities, computer assistance, and patron programming to 1,197 patrons this month.
- This month's programming activities have included the following:

- Virtual LEGO Club was held on Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- We had an incredible turnout for Snack Decorating which was held on Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup>



- The Crafternoon was well attended on Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>



- Virtual Anime Club was held on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. We invite tweens and teens to join us and in on the fun every Monday at 3:30 p.m.
- The Creative Corner: Intro to Macramè was enjoyed by many families on Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>
- LEGO Club was held on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Stop in, take part in the challenges, and create your very own masterpiece to put on display here in the library.



- Virtual and In-Person programs have continued for all patrons. Programs vary monthly so be sure to check out our Facebook page and website to remain up to date on our upcoming activities. Below are the programs for next month:
  - Anime Club Via Zoom: Join us for our Anime Club! We meet every Monday to hang out, talk about your favorite graphic novels and manga, and watch anime together. **Please Note:** Registration is required to receive the Zoom log-in information. Please abide by the age and grade restrictions. If you are under 18, please be sure to have a guardian's permission to participate in this online event. If you have any questions, please call the library at 863-983-1493.
  - The library will also be hosting Crafternoon: Paint your own flower pot Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 p.m. Ages 5 and up.. Supplies are limited, please register by calling 863-983-1493 or email Diana at [library@clewiston-fl.gov](mailto:library@clewiston-fl.gov). This program is designed for children and accompanying adults.
  - LEGO Club -Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 p.m. Join us and have fun building with blocks and LEGO.
- The Friends of the Clewiston Library organization is hosting a Raffle and used Book Sale Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> during the Sugar Festival.

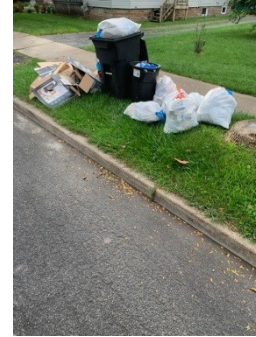


- United Way Free Tax Preparation Vita (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program will be available at the library on Thursdays and some Fridays. **Appointments are required.** To make an appointment, call 863-983-1493 or make an appointment in person at the library.
- Did you know you can earn an accredited High School Diploma and a Career Certificate through Hendry County Libraries? There are still scholarships available from the State of Florida which allows residents the ability to earn their High School Diploma for free and from the comfort of their homes. To learn more about the program, including how to enroll and available scholarship opportunities, visit <http://www.hendrylibraries.org> or call the [Clewiston Public Library](#) at 863-983-1493.
- Needing a computer at home or a laptop to travel with? The Clewiston and Barron Libraries have partnered with Komputers for Kids which is able to provide you an entire desktop computer for as low as \$40 (tower, flat screen monitor, mouse, and keyboard included)-wifi card is available for only \$15 and laptops as low as \$75.00. Stop in at either branch to check the inventory that is available.
- Need a place to hold a meeting? What about a computer lab to host your organization's/company's training? The Clewiston Library offers a classroom and computer lab with a total of 16 computers for use. For more information or to secure the room, please stop in or call the library at any time.
- If you have not done so already, please join our Facebook page (Clewiston Public Library) in order to remain up to date on the library's events and programs.
- **Recap of Upcoming Events:**
  - **Medicare 101 Via Zoom** – Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 p.m.
  - **Friends of the Clewiston Book Club** – Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. & 5:15 p.m.
  - **Anime Club Via Zoom** – Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.
  - **Crafternoon: Paint your own flower pot** – Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 p.m.
  - **LEGO Club Via Zoom** – Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.
  - **Anime Club Via Zoom** – Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.
  - **Medicare Coverage of Preventive Service Via Zoom** – Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.
  - **Medicare Part D Via Zoom** – Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.
  - **Family Board Game Afternoon** – Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.
  - **Used Book and Raffle Sale** – Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
  - **Anime Club Via Zoom** – Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 p.m.
  - **Anime Club** – Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 p.m.
  - **LEGO Club** – Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 p.m.
  - **Anime Club Via Zoom** – Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.
  - **Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Via Zoom** – Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.

**Code Enforcement Officer Debbie Clay reports:**

Article VI. – Solid Waste

Division 1. – Generally



Dear Clewiston Property Owner/Tenant:

On behalf of Clewiston Public Works and Clewiston Community Improvement Division, I want to share with you the following City of Clewiston Ordinance:

Article VI. – Solid Waste

Division 1. – Generally

Sec. 74-170. – Prohibitions

(b) Unauthorized placement. The placement or scattering of yard clippings, tree limbs and/or other refuse in or upon street gutters and/or the street surface, or drainage canal banks is hereby declared a nuisance and a danger to storm drainage control and shall be prohibited.

Sec. 74-187. Collection scheduling and placement

(b) *Horticulture waste.*

(1) The city will collect on weekly basis one pile of horticulture waste, including limbs, trimmings, and cuttings, not to exceed the volume dimensions which measure four feet by four feet by eight feet. Limbs shall not exceed eight feet in length and four inches in diameter. Bushy limbs shall be cut apart and trimmed to lay flat. Persons placing wastes for collection which exceed these standards shall coordinate with the public works department for proper removal as a special pickup service.

(2) Horticulture waste shall be placed for collection immediately adjacent to the premises producing such wastes, but not upon the paved street, sidewalk, storm gutter or canal bank. The city will not be responsible for damage to sprinkler systems, sprinkler heads, water meters and other objects, including fences, gates and hedges, other plants and trees damaged due to



horticulture waste being placed over or piled on or against such items as a result of being placed there for collection by the occupants and/or owner of the property.

(3) No horticulture waste shall be placed for collection against or within ten feet of any wall, fence, vehicle, electric pole, down guys, utility lines, traffic control device, telephone interface junction panel, water valve box, manhole, tree, or any other obstruction so as to impede collection.

(4) No garbage or other solid waste materials shall be placed for collection commingled with horticulture waste. Commingled waste of this nature shall constitute a contaminated waste pile and will only be removed by special pickup service.

(5) Waste placed for collection in violation of any section of this article shall be tagged with written notice stating that the occupant of the premises must remove same within 48 hours; if the occupant fails to remove the waste, the city will pick up this accumulation and the occupant will be charged for a special pickup service. The special pickup fee will be charged with the occupant's monthly utility bill.

(e) *Special pickup.* A special pickup is a collection service for items not authorized on a regular collection schedule. Such pickups include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) All bulky wastes and white goods exceeding size thresholds;

(2) Contaminated horticulture waste piles; and

(3) Any other unacceptable residential waste as determined by the public works director.

Special pickups will be coordinated by the resident and the public works department as to time, place, date and items to be picked up. A minimum fee, found in appendix A to this Code, will be charged. The director of public works or his designee shall charge an additional amount above the minimum based on excessive volume, difficulty of collection, and other relevant factors. This fee shall be charged with the customer's next regular utility bill.

Both our Public Works and Code Enforcement personnel will begin focused enforcement on this ordinance as well as continued enforcement of all City of Clewiston Ordinance.

The complete City of Clewiston Ordinances is available online and may be accessed utilizing the City of Clewiston website: <https://www.clewiston-fl.gov/> or Municode Library website: [https://library.municode.com/fl/clewiston/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/fl/clewiston/codes/code_of_ordinances)

If you have any questions about how to achieve/maintain compliance with this or any other City of Clewiston Ordinance you may contact our office at 863-983-1454 extension 309. You may also contact Public Works at 863-983-1471 to schedule special pickups as needed.

Sincerely,  
Debra Clay

Debra Clay  
Code Compliance Supervisor  
Office: (863)983-1454 ext. 309  
[debbie.mcneil@clewiston-fl.gov](mailto:debbie.mcneil@clewiston-fl.gov)

### **Police Chief Tom Lewis reports: Police Department**

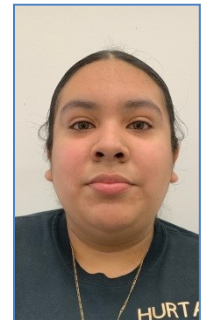
On February 9, 2022, All4One Towing assisted the police department (for free) by removing old safes and towers of old safe deposit boxes that were left from the previous bank. The removal of the equipment which was located within our evidence vault, has opened up space for better evidence organization.



New Employee - On February 10, 2022, Vickie Powell became the newest member of our dispatch team. She comes to us with a great number of years of experience from the Hendry County Sheriff's Office. We are glad to have her aboard.



New Employee – On February 15, 2022, Aracely Hurtado joined our dispatch team, bringing our Communications staffing to full. She will enter into our communications training program as we have high hopes for the future. Please join me in welcoming our newest employees to the force.



### **Animal Services**

In the month of February 2022, Animal Services reported the intake of 1 goat, 48 cats and 46 dogs.

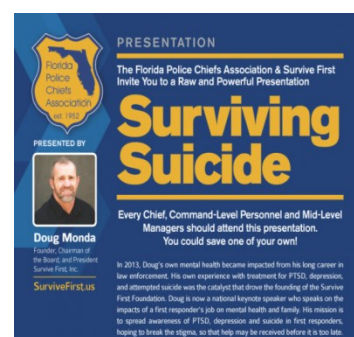
Upgrades continue to be made at the shelter facility. This past month, we repaired caging and doors as well as replaced the cabling system and guillotine doors in the dog kennel area. We purchased and installed a new animal exam table to complement our newly designed intake room.

Since December 2, 2021, Animal Services transitioned to being open seven days per week! We encourage members of the public to visit the shelter and find your fur-ever pet and to visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ClewistonAnimalControl>, where you can see the latest news and pictures of our four-legged friends.

## Highlighted Training

On February 9, 2022, Officer Myers completed a two-day instructor course on Trauma Response Policing. With a better understanding of PTSD and how it affects criminal investigations, the training was focused on reducing the potential recurrence of criminal behavior through early intervention and community trust.

On February 15, 2022, Commander Tito Nieves attended the Florida Police Chiefs Association's Surviving Suicide training. Unfortunately, suicide among law enforcement is rising at an alarming rate. The training focused on impacts of PTSD, depression, and other mental health problems that law enforcement professionals face. Identifying the warning signs and breaking the stigma of getting help can save lives.



## Other News

On February 10, 2022, Chief Lewis gave a presentation to the Clewiston Lions Club at Sonny's BBQ. Topics covered infrastructure, budget, training, and recent happenings at the Police Department as well as Animal Services.

On February 10, 2022, Officer Rebecca Myers gave a Stranger Danger presentation to approximately 15 kids at the Discovery Day Academy. Highlights of the presentation included a visit from Paw Patrol Chase and letting the kids play with the lights and sirens of Officer Myers' patrol car!

On February 15, 2022, Chief Lewis and Commander Nieves participated in a Strategic Planning Focus Group for the Hendry County School District. This collaborative effort is developing and finalizing a roadmap for the future to ensure that our kids are getting the best education they can.





On February 26, 2022, Officer Rebecca Myers represented the department at Westside Elementary School's Kindergarten's First Touch-A-Truck event. What an awesome event connecting with the youth of our community.



**General Services Director Danny Williams reports:**

Wipes and other stuff are making their way to our sewer and wreaking havoc on our wastewater treatment plant! These materials don't break down in the sewer system like toilet paper, so they arrive at our plants jamming mechanisms, clogging pumps, and breaking critical machinery. Please trash wet wipes, even if they're "flushable"!

- **Facility Maintenance Activities:**
  - Staff made repairs to Animal Control kennel cages, an ice machine and 4 A/C units
  - The Youth Center remodeling project continues. Staff prepped holes for the kitchen exhaust vent; poured a concrete slab for the A/C unit and the exhaust fan system; and installed new flooring, ceiling tiles and a kitchen sink.
- **Street Division Activities:**
  - spread new mulch at the playground area at Sikes Park
  - assisted Solid Waste Division by cleaning debris piles from our city streets
  - repaired potholes and street signs around town as needed
  - washed and cleaned the bridge at the end of Royal Palm Avenue
  - repaired a damaged sidewalk curb at the intersection of Ponce de Leon and N. WC Owen Avenue
- **Solid Waste Activities:**
  - Crews continue to complete all of the commercial and residential routes as scheduled.
  - Staff collected 72 cubic yards of solid waste debris from the 2022 Hendry County Fair.
- **Ballfields Activities:**
  - The 2022 season is finally here and our fields are ready for all games.
  - Daily maintenance is performed on all fields, making sure that all play surfaces are safe for play.
  - Come out and support your local high school team!
- **John Boy Auditorium Activities:**
  - Reservations are steady and staff continues to ensure that all of our event holders are happy with our facility and that their events are successful.
  - Staff maintains the facility and makes all repairs as they are needed.
- **Recreation Activities:**
  - Restroom facilities are being maintained despite staffing shortages.
  - Staff has spent extra time at the boat basin facility to ensure that it is clean and well stocked for the upcoming March tournaments.

- Staff has been performing park inspections to ensure that safety standards are maintained at all times.
- **Electric Crew Activities:**
  - repaired 20+ street lights (backlog caused by delivery delays);
  - removed vegetation from power lines;
  - repaired broken primary line on 11th st
  - repaired feeder line damage from osprey
  - transferred four services to new pole for commercial customer
  - removed four spans of primary wire, crossarms and hardware from electric line behind Dodge dealership in preparation for building demolition
  - installed new service at Sweet Lake Villas
  - performed annual safety inspection of equipment including trucks & rubber PPE
  - met with Florida Municipal Power Agency Engineer to discuss system reliability and ways to improve electric system.
  - Replaced transformer on 11th St and installed pad for new building on W. Ventura Avenue.
  - Raised low hanging service wire on El Paso
  - Disconnected service for meter lugs to be repaired at Seminole Manor address
- **Water Sewer Crew Activities:**
  - repaired water line breaks on Ventura Avenue, Pinewood Avenue, Ridgeview Circle, and 4" water line on W. Arcade Avenue;
  - repaired and replaced pumps at four lift stations;
  - replaced cast iron water line with PVC;
  - installed eight new water meters; ran 2 new service lines
  - closed 6 "locate" tickets
- **Customer Service Department**
  - Your Utility partners with customers to bring renewable power to the electric grid. If you'd like to learn more about net metering, please visit the FTC consumer information site at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0532-solar-power-your-home>.
  - Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom of the City's website page [www.clewiston-fl.gov](http://www.clewiston-fl.gov). You may update your information at any time through the same link.
  - If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or attic insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you more information. You can also visit our website at [www.clewiston-fl.gov](http://www.clewiston-fl.gov) or call our office.
  - *IT'S LIGHTNING SEASON!* Don't forget to sign up for your meter based surge protection! Visit our office today.
  - ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE on our web site at [www.clewiston-fl.gov](http://www.clewiston-fl.gov) or [www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl](http://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl).